(b) if so, what action Government are going to take on this proposal; and

(c) whether Government intend not to approve the proposal; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. While the Central Government agrees with the proposal as a policy, it is necessary to ensure that the conversion of forest villages into revenue villages is done in such a manner that its impact on the surrounding forest areas is minimal. Therefore, the Central Government has constituted two Committees, one each for the State of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, with the following terms of reference:-

(i) To undertake the indepth examination of the on-ground situation of the Forest Villages where the renewal of pattas has been proposed by the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) To study and examine critically the nature and extent of encroachment done by the patta holders.

(iii) To assess the problems and hardships being faced by the patta holders of the forest villages *vis-a-vis* patta holders in revenue villages.

(iv) To examine the possibility of eviction of encroachers while renewing the pattas in forest villages.

(v) The Committees will submit their reports within a period of six months.

However, to obviate the hardship of the local people, as an interim measure, the Central Government has permitted State Government to issue 30,617 pattas in 1346 villages spread over 1.21 lakh ha. forest land for a period of 15 years.

Forest Conservation Schemes in H.P.

3559. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of schemes taken up by Government during the last three years for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) what is the amount provided by Government for this purpose in that State during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The details of schemes funded by the Government of India for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment in Himachal Pradesh and the amount provided for this purpose in that State during the last three years, year-wise and the districts covered are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Scheme funded by Government of India for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment in Himachal Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount provided during the last three years (Rs. lakhs)			District covered
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	
1.	Eco Development Scheme	0.00	86.84	66.00	Mandi, Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla, Bilaspur, Kullu, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti
2.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project	52.28	37.92	78.91	Mandi, Solan and Sirmaur
3.	Non Timber Forest Produce	4.00	32.19	34.99	Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla, Chamba, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kullu, Kinnaur and Kangra
4.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	58.20	181.78	132.96	Kangra, Sirmaur, Mandi, Hamirpur and Shimla
5.	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	49.80	47.46	165.30	Mandi, Solan, Sirmaur, Shimla, Chamba, Bilaspur, Kullu, Kinnaur, Kangra and Lahaul-Spiti
6.	Conservation of Wetlands	12.76	0.00	46.50	Sirmaur, Kangra and Lahaul-Spiti
7.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	17.37	31.38	31.97	Funds released to State Government